

October 6, 2006

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WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon today announced that St. Bernard, Jefferson, and Plaquemines Parishes will receive \$15,616,589.30 in federal disaster aid grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The grants will reimburse the parishes for infrastructure recovery costs and for preventative measures.

"These grants will not only help the people of southeast Louisiana to restore our schools and facilities to pre-hurricane conditions, they are also an investment in protection from future storms," said Melancon. "Projects such as home elevation will diminish the impact of future storms. Securing federal funds to help Louisianians recover from Katrina and Rita and protect themselves from the next big hurricane continues to be my highest priority in Washington."

The following grants were announced today for Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes:

- \$2,444,137 for Home Elevation Project (Jefferson Parish). Jefferson Parish has identified homes located in areas that flood frequently. In order to eliminate or greatly reduce the impact of flooding on these "Repetitive Loss" structures, the project will reimburse Jefferson Parish for the cost of elevating 26 homes to one foot above Base Flood Elevation level. Elevating these homes, which were selected by cost-benefit analysis, will reduce future flood insurance claims paid through the National Flood Insurance Program.

- \$6,807,141 for Emergency Raw Sewage Pump Out (St. Bernard Parish). High winds, heavy rains and storm waters of up to 25 feet submerged the Parish's entire sewerage system, including 92 lift stations, 141,700 linear feet of sewer force mains, 3,460 manholes and 935,600 linear feet of gravity sewer mains. The lift stations pump raw sewerage to the wastewater treatment plants and are critical to the sanitary sewerage collection system. Without properly functioning lift stations, the raw sewerage would empty into the streets. This grant reimburses St. Bernard Parish for the estimated cost of emergency pump-out and hauling of raw sewerage from various lift stations to either a functioning lift station or a working wastewater treatment plant from October 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. Two primary lift stations are now in operation.

- \$2,160,056.22 for Lasoste Elementary School (St. Bernard Parish School Board). High winds and flooding from Hurricane Katrina caused catastrophic damage to the school, located

in the primary Murphy Oil Spill Zone. Flood waters rose up to six feet above the first floor level and damaged windows, doors, walls, plumbing fixtures, electrical and lighting service, and heating, ventilation and air condition systems. This grant will reimburse the school district for costs to restore the school to pre-disaster condition. The school's four structures, totaling 67,986 square feet, were built between 1958 and 1978.

- \$2,566,937.48 for Regulated Asbestos Containing Material Demolition (Plaquemines Parish). High winds, heavy rains and flooding from Hurricane Katrina caused severe damage throughout the Parish. A survey of the Parish estimated that about 600 homes have regulated asbestos containing material (RACM). This grant reimburses Plaquemines Parish for the demolition and debris removal of 111 homes with RACM.

- \$1,638,317.58 for Boothville Venice High School (Plaquemines Parish School Board). Hurricane Katrina's heavy winds, driving rains and flooding severely damaged the school and all its contents. This grant will reimburse the school district for replacing the damaged contents, materials and equipment. The 51,330 square-foot school building was built in 1971 and serves 462 students in preK-12th grades. It houses 22 classrooms, a library, cafeteria, science lab, and art and band rooms.

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